National Afforestation & Eco-Development Board (NAEB) has launched a programme of eco-regeneration with the help of voluntary organisations.

Shortfall in supply of sugar through PDS

3404. SHRIMATI KAMLA SINHA: SHRI AMAR SINGH:

Will the Miniser of FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that availability of sugar for distribution through PDS is likely to fall considerably against the demand from July, 1998;

(b) if so, what is the estimated monthly shortfall in the supply of sugar through PDS as against the normal requirement;

(c) what are the reasons therefor; and

(d) what measures have been taken by Government to meet the sugar requirement in full for the beneficiaries of PDS system in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS (SHRI SATYAPAL SINGH YADAV): (a) to (d) The share of levy sugar out of the production during sugar season 1997-98 (October-September) is expected to be about 40.5 lakh tonnes as against the requirement of about 48 lakh tonnes for distribution of levy sugar through PDS. The Government have decided to meet this shortfall through purchase from the freesale quota from the sugar mills during 1998.

Decision on sale of sugar through PDS

3405. DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR: Will the Miniser of FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a final decision has been taken on the question relating to sale of sugar through the Public Distribution System after the recent meeting with the State Food and Civil Supplies Ministers; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the fresh guidelines issued in this behalf?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS (SHRI SATYAPAL SINGH YADAV): (a) to (b) The matter is under examination in the Government.

Retail price of essential food-items in the open market

3406. SHRI NILOTPAL BASU: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the change in the retail price in the open market of the items like rice (different varieties), wheat, dals (different varieties), suji, edible oil, salt, sugar, soap, during the last hundred days and the details thereof; and

(b) the response of Government thereto and the measures contemplated thereon in terms of the strengthening of the public distribution system?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS (SHRI SATYAPAL SINGH YADAV): (a) A statament showing the retail prices of rice, wheat, dals, suji, edible oils, salt, sugar and soap for the last hundred days in four major cities is given in Statement *(see below)*

(b) The Government has accorded the highest priority to the control of prices of essential commodities. Apart from certain long term measures to increase the production of essential goods, imports under Open General Licence (OGL) of items which are in short supply like edible oils and pulses are being permitted in order to augment the total availability of these items. Recently, the import duty on edible oils has been reduced from 25% to 15%. In order to alleviate